

Supply List for Paper Piecing

1. Paper Piecing Pattern – please print a copy of one of the attached
2. Various scraps for the body of the heart
3. Larger scraps for the background and boarder (a quarter yard should be more than enough)
4. A postcard or piece of card stock to use as a folding guide (a 2X8 piece should be plenty big)
5. Rotary cutter and small cutting mat to have with you at your machine if you have one
6. Small craft iron if you have it
7. ¼" ruler
8. A water soluble glue stick is also handy, but not necessary
9. Scotch tape may also come in handy, but not necessary
10. Basic sewing supplies; machine with neutral thread and bobbin, pins, scissors, seam ripper, etc.

Tips for Foundation Paper Piecing

1. Copy your pattern on to plain paper. If you are using your printer, make sure that you are not scaling your output. If you are using a pattern with several blocks, make sure to copy or print them using the same device. All copy machines and printers have a slight distortion associated with them. A lighter weight paper is easier to remove, but regular copy paper works just as well. I bought a value pack of special foundation paper on line and it was reasonably priced. I know that you can get it at JoAnn's also.
2. The rule of thumb to guesstimate the scrap size for the intended foundation-pieced patch is:
 - a. Take a quick measurement of the patch
 - b. Then add at least 1" to both the width and height
 - c. Remember that when you are sewing angled seams or odd shapes, the bigger the better
 - d. Before you add your patch, hold the foundation up to the light and place the scrap over the patch to see if it covers the area including a generous seam allowance
3. As you cut your pieces make sure to label them. Sticky notes work well as do scraps of paper pinned to the pieces. If I am doing a large project, I use a labeled zip lock bag for each different fabric cut.
4. A 90/14 sewing needle works best. I also use an open-toe presser foot for good visibility. Set your stitch length to 1.8 or 18 – 20 stitches per inch for ease in removing the paper.
5. You will be sewing on the printed lines of the paper so the fabric is placed on the plain side of the paper with the right side of the fabric facing the feed dogs.
6. Start and stop at least 2 to 3 stitches above and below the seam you are sewing on.
7. I have found that pressing after each seam helps to make a cleaner block. At the minimum sharply finger press each seam
8. If you sew a piece incorrectly, place a piece of Scotch tape over the printed seam line you need to remove. Gently use a seam ripper to remove the stitches and re-sew the seam.
9. When squaring up your blocks **remember to leave a seam allowance**
10. Join all pieces of block and all blocks together before you remove the paper.